



State Senator

April 21, 2004

VALDE GARCIA

Serving the 22nd District

Shiawassee-Livingston-Southern Ingham counties

Legislative Update

The following bills were introduced this week. Should you wish to learn more about the proposed legislation, please visit www.michiganlegislature.org and enter the bill number where indicated. The web-site will provide you with the bill's language as introduced and an analysis describing how the bill will affect area industry, the economy and consumers.

Senator Garcia is eager to learn how you feel about proposed legislation. He welcomes your responses via e-mail at senvgarcia@senate.michigan.gov.

BREAKING NEWS FROM SENATOR GARCIA'S OFFICE A Legislative Bulletin for Residents of the 22nd District

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| SB 1146 | NURSING HOME FEES (Emerson)
Eliminates the public health code sunset for quality assurance assessment on hospitals, nursing homes and hospital long-term care units. |
| SB 1147 | FIVE-YEAR TRANSPORTATION PLAN (Johnson)
Amends State Transportation Commission Act to require approval of a five-year transportation plan. |
| SB 1148 | MILITARY HUNTING/FISHING LICENSE (Prusi)
Authorizes military personnel to obtain free hunting and fishing licenses from Department of Natural Resources licensing agents. |
| SB 1149 | ARMED FORCES COMMEMORATION (Garcia)
Provides for commemoration dates for the anniversaries of the founding of the branches of the United States armed forces. |
| SB 1150 | BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD SERVICES (Hardiman)
Eliminates requirement for benefit plan offered by Blue Cross/Blue Shield to include basic health services but requires preventive health services. |
| SB 1151 | PHYSICIAN CREDENTIALING PROCESS (Brown)
Standardizes Blue Cross/Blue Shield credentialing process for physicians. |
| SB 1152 | MINIMUM SENTENCE GUIDELINES (Thomas)
Revises certain minimum sentences provided for under sentencing guidelines. |
| SB 1153 | MEAP TEST REPLACEMENT (Kuipers)
Provides for replacing high school MEAP test with the Michigan Merit Examination in the school code. |
| SB 1154 | MEAP TEST REPLACEMENT (Switalski)
Provides for replacing high school MEAP test with the Michigan Merit Examination in Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act. |

SB 1155	MEAP TEST REPLACEMENT (Jelinek) Provides for replacing high school MEAP test with the Michigan Merit Examination in the School Aid Act.
SB 1156	MEAP TEST REPLACEMENT (VanWoerkom) Replaces MEAP test with Michigan Merit Examination in determining eligibility for Michigan Merit Award scholarships.
SB 1157	MEAP TEST REPLACEMENT (Thomas) Provides for replacing high school MEAP test with the Michigan Merit Examination in the Career and Technical Preparation Act.
SB 1158	SOJOURNER TRUTH DAY (Schauer) Establishes "Sojourner Truth Day" as November 26.
SB 1159	PRESQUE ISLE JUDGESHIP (Allen) Increases probate judgeships in Presque Isle County from one to two.
SB 1160	SHERWOOD MEMORIAL HIGHWAY (McManus) Designates the portion of US-127 in Clare County as the "Kevin Sherwood Memorial Highway."
SB 1161	PROSTATE CANCER RESEARCH (Thomas) Creates a prostate cancer research fund.
SB 1162	PROSTATE CANCER RESEARCH (Thomas) Provides for income tax check-off for funding for prostate cancer research fund.
SB 1163	TRANSPORTATION FUND FORMULA (Johnson) Revises transportation funding formula.
SB 1164	NURSING HOME TEMPORARY ABSENCE (Emerson) Amends the public health code to clarify that a nursing home must hold a temporarily absent patient's bed open for a certain amount of time if the nursing home receives payment for each day during the absent period.
SB 1165	ABSENTEE BALLOT COMPLETION (Cherry) Requires the voter to be present when absentee ballot is completed if an individual is assisting with completion of the ballot.
SB 1166	FALSE ABSENTEE STATEMENT (Cherry) Makes a technical change in sentencing guidelines for penalties for assisting an absentee voter in making a false statement.
SR 238	TRAILS AND GREENWAYS MONTH (Bishop) Names June 2004 as Michigan Trails and Greenways Month and June 12, 2004 as Michigan Trails and Greenways Day in Michigan.
SR 239	ARMY SPECIALIST RICHARD TREVITHICK (Emerson) Memorializes Army Specialist Richard Trevithick.
SR 240	CHILDHOOD CANCER SURVIVORS DAY (Thomas) Names Saturday, June 5, 2004 as Childhood Cancer Survivors Day in Michigan.
SR 241	STEEL MARKET STABILIZATION (Brown) Urges the president and Congress to take steps to stabilize the steel market in U.S., including such measures as establishing a temporary quota on scrap steel exports in order to ensure the availability of this raw material for domestic market needs and help contain escalating prices.
SR 242	MARCH FOR WOMEN'S LIVES DAY (Jacobs) Names April 25, 2004 as March for Women's Lives Day; supports the March for Women's Lives event, demonstrating support for the protection of the right of women to control their reproductive health, lives and future.
SR 243	CONSTRUCTION WEEK (Schauer) Names the week of April 26, 2004 as Construction Week, supports the work of Michigan's construction industry and encourages the community to visit local Joint Apprenticeship Training facilities on April 26, 2004.

Committee Hearings

Hearing dates and times are subject to change.

HOUSE

House Committee	Appropriations: Natural Resources and Environmental Quality
Clerk Phone Number	517-373-8080
Location	521 House Office Building, Lansing, MI
Date	Tuesday, 4/27/2004
Time	9:00 AM
Agenda	SB 1068 (Johnson) Appropriations; zero budget; department of natural resources; provide for fiscal year 2004-2005.
Chair	Representative John R Pastor
House Committee	Judiciary
Clerk Phone Number	517-373-7256
Location	308 House Office Building, Lansing, MI
Date	Tuesday, 4/27/2004
Time	9:00 AM
Agenda	HB 5763 (Lipsey) Civil procedure; bankruptcy; property exempt from execution; revise and index for inflation. HB 5764 (Howell) Civil procedure; bankruptcy; exemption of life insurance proceeds from creditors claims; revise. HB 5765 (Lipsey) Civil procedure; bankruptcy; exemption of structured settlements from levy and execution; provide for with certain exceptions. HB 5766 (Lipsey) Civil procedure; bankruptcy; exemption of life insurance proceeds from creditors claims; revise. HB 5780 (Lipsey) Civil procedure; bankruptcy; definition of structured settlement in structured settlement protection act; revise to include workers compensation claims. HB 5781 (Lipsey) Workers compensation; benefits; assignability of payment after redemption of claim; clarify.
Chair	Representative Jim Howell
House Committee	Local Government and Urban Policy
Clerk Phone Number	517-373-2013
Location	307 House Office Building, Lansing, MI
Date	Tuesday, 4/27/2004
Time	9:00 AM
Agenda	HB 5741 (Ward) Campaign finance; campaign practices; comprehensive changes to campaign finance act; enact. HB 5657 (Huizenga) Communications; technology; digital imaging to be archivally accepted; allow. HB 5038 (Taub) Economic development; tax increment financing; definition of other protected obligations; revise.
Chair	Representative Chris Ward
House Committee	Agriculture and Resource Management
Clerk Phone Number	517-373-8538
Location	327 House Office Building, Lansing, MI
Date	Tuesday, 4/27/2004
Time	10:30 AM
Agenda	HCR 51 (Casperson) A concurrent resolution to disapprove Executive Order No. 2004-3, setting forth changes in the organization of the executive branch. HB 5665 (Bradstreet) State; purchasing; purchase of paper products; give preference to products that derive from sustainably managed forests or procurement systems.
Chair	Representative Tom Meyer
House Committee	Appropriations: Corrections
Clerk Phone Number	517-373-8080
Location	House Appropriations Committee Room, 3rd Floor, State Capitol Building
Date	Tuesday, 4/27/2004
Time	10:30 AM

Agenda [SB 1064](#) (Johnson) Appropriations; zero budget; department of corrections; provide for fiscal year 2004-2005.
 -Public Testimony
 -Department of Corrections Five-Year Plan

Chair Representative Mike Pumford

House Committee Health Policy; Cost
Clerk Phone Number 517-373-5795
Location 521 House Office Building, Lansing, MI
Date Tuesday, 4/27/2004
Time 10:30 AM
Agenda Impact of Disease Management Programs and Strategies on Health Care Costs

Presentations by:
 Dave Cuneo, Health Plan Advocate
 Phil Schafer and Dan Ladd, Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants
 Jan Christenson, Michigan Department of Community Health
 Sharon Goodsell, American Diabetes Association

Chair Representative Edward J Gaffney
House Committee Appropriations: Community Health
Clerk Phone Number 517-373-8080
Location House Appropriations Committee Room, 3rd Floor, State Capitol Building
Date Wednesday, 4/28/2004
Time 8:30 AM
Agenda [SB 1063](#) (Johnson) Appropriations; zero budget; department of community health; provide for fiscal year 2004-2005.
 Department Presentation on Executive Budget Recommendation - Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Chair Representative Gary Newell

House Committee Appropriations: School Aid (K12)/Department of Education
Clerk Phone Number 517-373-8080
Location 424 State Capitol Building
Date Wednesday, 4/28/2004
Time 8:30 AM
Agenda [SB 1069](#) (Johnson) Appropriations; zero budget; school aid; provide for fiscal year 2004-2005.
 - Overview

Chair Representative John Moolenaar

House Committee Energy and Technology
Clerk Phone Number 517-373-8538
Location 519 House Office Building, Lansing, MI
Date Wednesday, 4/28/2004
Time 9:00 AM
Agenda [HB 5798](#) (Rivet) Income tax; home heating credit; refund requirement for certain energy bills; revise.

Chair Representative Ken Bradstreet

House Committee Tax Policy
Clerk Phone Number 517-373-0070
Location 326 House Office Building, Lansing, MI
Date Wednesday, 4/28/2004
Time 9:00 AM
Agenda [HB 5323](#) (Wenke) Single business tax; credit; professional employer organizations that are not captive providers; disallow credit.
[HB 4357](#) (Gaffney) Income tax; deductions; deduction to charitable organizations to benefit K-12 education; establish.
[HB 5669](#) (Gaffney) Income tax; credit; contributions to a historical museum; provide for credit.

Chair Representative Lorence Wenke

House Committee	Appropriations: Higher Education
Clerk Phone Number	517-373-8080
Location	House Appropriations Committee Room, 3rd Floor, State Capitol Building
Date	Wednesday, 4/28/2004
Time	10:30 AM
Agenda	SB 1067 (Johnson) Appropriations; zero budget; higher education; provide for fiscal year 2004-2005. - Testimony from Presidents Council - Testimony from University Presidents
Chair	Representative Sandra Caul
House Committee	Insurance
Clerk Phone Number	517-373-5795
Location	521 House Office Building, Lansing, MI
Date	Wednesday, 4/28/2004
Time	10:30 AM
Agenda	HB 4987 (Newell) Insurance; insurers; differential treatment of local retail pharmacies and mail order pharmacies; prohibit. HB 5435 (Hummel) Insurance; other; pharmacy benefit managers; regulate. HB 5436 (Richardville) Health; pharmaceuticals; license and regulation of mail-order pharmacies; provide for. HB 5437 (Plakas) Insurance; health care corporations; differential treatment for certain pharmaceutical services; prohibit. HB 5438 (Zelenko) Insurance; prudent purchaser agreements; provisions regulating pharmaceutical panels and networks; provide for.
Chair	Representative Larry Julian
House Committee	Appropriations: Community Colleges
Clerk Phone Number	517-373-8080
Location	521 House Office Building, Lansing, MI
Date	Wednesday, 4/28/2004
Time	2:00 PM or after committees are given leave by the House to meet, whichever time is later.
Agenda	SB 1062 (Johnson) Appropriations; zero budget; community and junior colleges; provide for fiscal year 2004-2005.
Chair	Representative Bruce Caswell
House Committee	Employment Relations, Training and Safety
Clerk Phone Number	517-373-0070
Location	327 House Office Building, Lansing, MI
Date	Wednesday, 4/28/2004
Time	2:00 PM or after committees are given leave by the House to meet, whichever time is later.
Agenda	SB 647 (Patterson) Labor; health and safety; definition of wilful MIOSHA violation; provide for and clarify procedure for obtaining interview statements during an inspection. HB 5598 (Caswell) Employment security; benefits; eligibility for unemployment benefits for federal Americorps program individuals; prohibit.
Chair	Representative Leon Drolet
House Committee	Appropriations: State Police and Military and Veterans Affairs, Joint Meeting with Senate Appropriations: State Police and Military and Veterans Affairs
Clerk Phone Number	517-373-8080
Location	Senate Hearing Room, 1st Floor, Michigan National/Boji Tower
Date	Thursday, 4/29/2004
Time	8:30 AM
Agenda	Homeland Security in Michigan.
Chair	Representative Sandra Caul
House Committee	Transportation
Clerk Phone Number	517-373-8538
Location	307 House Office Building, Lansing, MI
Date	Thursday, 4/29/2004

Time 9:00 AM
Agenda [HB 4450](#) (Hoogendyk) Vehicles; license plates; customization of military related specialty plates; provide for.
[HB 5273](#) (Casperson) Transportation; carriers; penalties for improper transportation of hazardous materials; revise.
FOR TESTIMONY ONLY:
[HB 4358](#) (DeRossett) Vehicles; trucks; length limit; increase to 65 feet.
Chair Representative Gene DeRossett
Senate Committee Appropriations: Transportation
Clerk Phone Number 373-2523
Location Senate Appropriations Room, 3rd Floor, Capitol Building, 100 S. Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933
Date Tuesday, 4/27/2004
Time 1:00 PM
Agenda [HB 5528](#) (Shulman) Appropriations; zero budget; department of transportation; provide for fiscal year 2004-2005.
Chair Senator Shirley Johnson

SENATE

Senate Committee Transportation
Clerk Phone Number 373-7708
Location Room 110, Farnum Building, 125 W. Allegan Street, Lansing, MI 48933
Date Tuesday, 4/27/2004
Time 1:00 PM
Agenda [SB 736](#) (Jelinek) Vehicles; trailers; width restriction for flatbed trailers; revise.
[HB 5094](#) (Murphy) Traffic control; pedestrians; requirement for crosswalks within 200 yards of a school where speed limit is 25 miles per hour or higher; provide for.

Chair Senator Judson Gilbert
Senate Committee Appropriations: Judiciary & Corrections
Clerk Phone Number 373-3760
Location Room 210, Farnum Building, 125 W. Allegan Street, Lansing, MI 48933
Date Tuesday, 4/27/2004
Time 1:30 PM
Agenda [HB 5520](#) (Shulman) Appropriations; zero budget; judiciary; provide for fiscal year 2004-2005.

1. Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan
2. Michigan Court of Appeals Chief Judge William C. Whitbeck
3. Overview of House Action by the Senate Fiscal Agency

Chair Senator Alan L. Cropsey

Senate Committee Appropriations: State Police & Military Affairs
Clerk Phone Number 373-5932
Location Room 405, Capitol Building, 100 S. Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933
Date Tuesday, 4/27/2004
Time 3:00 PM
Agenda The FY 2004-05 Budget for the Department of State Police and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Subcommittee Review and Public Testimony.
Chair Senator Cameron Brown

Senate Committee Commerce & Labor
Clerk Phone Number 373-2413
Location Room 100, Farnum Building, 125 W. Allegan Street, Lansing, MI 48933
Date Tuesday, 4/27/2004
Time 3:00 PM
Agenda Presentation by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation on economic development tools for new and expanding businesses.

Chair Senator Jason Allen

Senate Committee Natural Resources & Environmental Affairs

Clerk Phone Number 373-1854

Location Room 110, Farnum Building, 125 W. Allegan Street, Lansing, MI 48933

Date Tuesday, 4/27/2004

Time 3:00 PM

Agenda Presentation by the Michigan 4-H Conservation Council

[SB 722](#) (Brater) Environmental protection; pollution prevention; types of eligible projects; expand.

[SB 723](#) (Basham) Environmental protection; pollution prevention; small business pollution prevention assistance revolving loan fund; revise eligibility criteria.

[SB 927](#) (McManus) Natural resources; other; work group on game and fish program revenue; establish.

[SCR 41](#) (Patterson) A concurrent resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States to provide funding for the dredging of canals around the city of Gibraltar.

[SR 234](#) (Patterson) A resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States to provide funding for the dredging of canals around the city of Gibraltar.

Chair Senator Patricia L Birkholz

Senate Committee Appropriations: General Government

Clerk Phone Number 373-2420

Location Senate Appropriations Room, 3rd Floor, Capitol Building, 100 S. Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933

Date Tuesday, 4/27/2004

Time 2:30 P.M.

Agenda Attorney General, Civil Rights, Civil Service, Executive Office, Legislative Auditor General

Chair Senator Valde Garcia

Senate Committee Appropriations: Commerce, Labor & Economic Development

Clerk Phone Number 3732420

Location Senate Appropriations Room, 3rd Floor, Capitol Building, 100 S. Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933

Date Wednesday, 4/28/2004

Time 3:00 PM

Agenda [HB 5521](#) (Shulman) Appropriations; zero budget; department of labor and economic growth; provide for fiscal year 2004-2005.

Chair Senator Valde Garcia

Senate Committee Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform

Clerk Phone Number 373-7670

Location Rooms 402 and 403, Capitol Building, 100 S. Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933

Date Wednesday, 4/28/2004

Time 3:00 PM

Agenda [SB 320](#) (Stamas) Labor; youth employment; youth employment standards; revise maximum number of hours, ending hour, and other general amendments.

[HB 4937](#) (Caswell) Occupations; inspectors; standards for operation of historical steam engines at public events; provide for under certain circumstances.

[HB 5500](#) (Casperson) Liquor; hours; selling of alcohol before 12 noon on Sunday; require to extend over 2 time zones.

Chair Senator Alan Sanborn

Senate Committee Technology & Energy

Clerk Phone Number 373-7350

Location Room 210, Farnum Building, 125 W. Allegan Street, Lansing, MI 48933

Date Wednesday, 4/28/2004

Time 3:00 PM

Agenda Continued Discussion on Public Act 141 of 2000 (Electric Restructuring)

Chair Senator Bruce Patterson

Senate Committee Appropriations: Higher Education

Clerk Phone Number	373-1760
Location	Senate Appropriations Room, 3rd Floor, Capitol Building, 100 S. Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933
Date	Wednesday, 4/28/2004
Time	8:30 a.m.
Agenda	Confirmation hearing for Russell A. Gronevelt, Jr. gubernatorial Appointee to the Governing Board of Michigan Technological University
Chair	Senator Mike Goschka
Senate Committee	Appropriations: State Police & Military Affairs/Joint Senate & House
Clerk Phone Number	373-5932
Location	Senate Hearing Room, Ground Floor, Boji Tower, 124 W. Allegan Street, Lansing, MI 48933
Date	Thursday, 4/29/2004
Time	8:30 AM
Agenda	Homeland Security in Michigan. Captain John Ort, Director of the Emergency Management Division of the Department of State Police will continue discussion and field questions on Homeland Security grants and programs in the state from the meeting of March 18, 2004.
Chair	Senator Cameron Brown
Senate Committee	Appropriations: Agriculture
Clerk Phone Number	373-5932
Location	Senate Appropriations Room, 3rd Floor, Capitol Building, 100 S. Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933
Date	Thursday, 4/29/2004
Time	1:00 PM
Agenda	HB 5509 (Shulman) Appropriations; zero budget; department of agriculture; provide for fiscal year 2004-2005.
Chair	Senator Cameron Brown
Senate Committee	Education
Clerk Phone Number	373-6920
Location	Room 210, Farnum Building, 125 W. Allegan Street, Lansing, MI 48933
Date	Thursday, 4/29/2004
Time	2:00 PM
Agenda	SB 1153 (Kuipers) Education; examinations; replacing high school MEAP test; provide for in school code. SB 1154 (Switalski) Education; examinations; replacing high school MEAP test; provide for in postsecondary enrollment options act. SB 1155 (Jelinek) Education; examinations; replacing high school MEAP test; provide for in school aid act. SB 1156 (Van Woerkom) Higher education; financial aid; Michigan merit award scholarships; replace MEAP test in determining eligibility. SB 1157 (Thomas III) Education; examinations; replacing high school MEAP test; provide for in career and technical preparation act.
Chair	Senator Wayne Kuipers
Senate Committee	Appropriations: History, Arts & Libraries
Clerk Phone Number	373-0793
Location	Senate Appropriations Room, 3rd Floor Capitol Building, 100 S. Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933
Date	Thursday, 4/29/2004
Time	11:00 AM or later, immediately following session
Agenda	HB 5519 (Shulman) Appropriations; zero budget; department of history, arts, and libraries; provide for fiscal year 2004-2005.
Chair	Senator Tom George